Inter-Changeability of Rice Varieties for Central Pool

4280. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA :

SHRI LAJPAT RAI :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that common variety rice and some new varieties of paddy do not yield rice as per specifications laid down by the Central Government.

(b) if so, whether the Punjab Government has requested the Central Government to allow the rice-millers to deliver rice after changing the variety for smooth delivery of rice to the Central pool; and

(c) the reasons for not allowing inter-changeability of variety in delivery of rice to the Central pool when quantum of rice has to remain the same and price of rice is to be paid as per variety of rice delivered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Considering the difficulties expressed by the Government of Punjab that paddy varieties of common type are not yielding rice as per the specification of the Government of India, interchangeability of common rice (IR-8) into Grade 'A' has been allowed for the current Kharif Marketing Season 1999-2000 in respect of Punjab and Haryana, subject to the condition that there is no outgo of additional subsidy. This is further subject to the condition that in the next Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001, in Punjab, common rice will not be procured by the Food Corporation of India and the State Procuring Agencies.

The Punjab Government has also been requested that after identifying the varieties which do not yield rice as per specifications, they may advise their farmers not to grow such varieties of paddy as the same will not be accepted for Central pool.

The interchangeability of Grade 'A' paddy into common rice has, however, not been allowed due to technical as well as financial implications.